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DOCTOR • WHO
THE TIME MACHINATION
ON THE RUN FROM THE TORCHWOOD INSTITUTE!
TONY LEE
PAUL GRIST
PHIL ELLIOTT
IDW
10TH ANNIVERSARY
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DOCTOR·WHO

THE TIME MACHINATION

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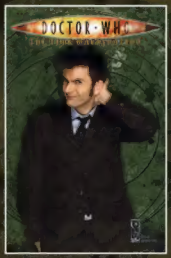

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LONDON, 1889.
REALLY, SMITH, YOU SHOULD SPEAK TO THIS MAN! HE'S TALKING ABOUT THINGS THAT I HAVE NO CLUE WHATSOEVER ABOUT!
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE JUST AN ENGLISH TEACHER, WELLS.
IT'LL BE US SCIENTISTS THAT CHANGE THE WORLD— NOT YOU AND YOUR BOOKS!
YOU COULD BE RIGHT, THERE. ALTHOUGH THERE'S DEFINITELY A STORY TO BE TOLD HERE.
SO WHO IS THIS FELLOW YOU'RE TAKING ME TO MEET?
THE DOCTOR? HE'S A RUM FELLOW AND NO MISTAKE.
I MET HIM A FEW YEARS BACK WHILE ON HOLIDAY IN SCOTLAND. HE—
—WELL, LET'S JUST SAY THAT HE SHOWED ME THINGS I THOUGHT NEVER POSSIBLE. PLACES I COULD NEVER BELIEVE.
OF COURSE, HE LOOKED DIFFERENT BACK THEN.
ANYWAY, HE TURNED UP OUT OF THE BLUE A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, NEEDING MY HELP. BUT AS YOU SAID...
...YOU SCIENTISTS WILL UNDERSTAND THIS BETTER THAT I WOULD.
MY GOD...

POLICE PUBLIC CALL BOX
FREE PUBLIC
PULL TO OPEN
"The *Time Traveller* (for so it will be convenient to speak of him) was expounding *a recondite matter* to us."
"His grey eyes shone and *twinkled,* and his usually pale face was *flushed* and animated..."
HERBERT GEORGE WELLS! JUST THE MAN I WANTED TO SEE!

DOCTOR, MAY I INTRODUCE MY GOOD FRIEND JONATHAN SMITH. HE'S A PHYSICIST OF RENOWN—
JUST WHAT I NEED! PLEASURE TO MEET YOU!
JOHN SMITH, EH? THAT'S A RATHER COMMON NAME! HIDING ANY SECRETS THERE?
I— THAT IS— WELL—
—I'M SORRY, WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON HERE?
DIDN'T HE TELL YOU? THAT'S HERBERT FOR YOU—ALWAYS WRITING THINGS, NEVER SPEAKING THEM.
THE OLD THING'S RUN OUT OF JUICE AND I CAN'T REALLY JUST POP OFF DOWN TO CARDIFF NOW FOR A REFILL, CAN I?
CARDIFF? WHY NOT? IT'D ONLY TAKE A MATTER OF DAYS TO TRAVEL THERE AND BACK.
YEAH, BUT THERE'S TWO PROBLEMS WITH THAT. FIRSTLY, I NEED TO KEEP UNDERCOVER—AND I'D HAVE TO TAKE THE TARDIS WITH ME. NO PETROL CAN, YOU SEE.
AND SECONDLY, I HATE CARDIFF. FULL OF GHOSTS AND SLITHEEN.
SLITHEEN? TARDIS?
TIME AND RELATIVE DIMENSION IN SPACE. I TRAVEL IN IT. AND I NEED A PHYSICIST TO HELP ME FIX IT.
OF COURSE, I SHALL HAVE TO CONTROVERT ONE OR TWO IDEAS THAT ARE ALMOST UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED. THE GEOMETRY, FOR INSTANCE, THEY TAUGHT YOU AT SCHOOL IS FOUNDED ON A MISCONCEPTION.
DID YOU GET THAT DOWN? IT'S FROM YOUR BOOK.
I TOLD YOU, DOCTOR, I'M NOT WRITING A BOOK!
YEAH, WELL, NOT YET, ANYWAY. ALWAYS GOOD TO WRITE NOTES DOWN, THOUGH!
ACTUALLY, I COULD MAKE A PETROL CAN OF SORTS—SOMETHING TO GATHER ENOUGH RIFT POWER TO JUMP-START THE TARDIS. IT'LL BE EASIER TO GET TO CARDIFF, TOO.
THE PROBLEM IS ABOUT TEN YEARS BACK. I MIGHT HAVE ANNOYED THE QUEEN A LITTLE. WELL, MAYBE A LOT, ACTUALLY.
BECAUSE OF THIS, SHE HAS PEOPLE OUT LOOKING FOR ME. THEY'RE CALLED THE "INSTITUTE"—

"—AND THEY REALLY HATE ME!"
IS IT HIM?
IS IT THE DOCTOR?
THE CHRONAL SIGNATURE IS SIMILAR TO THE ONE FOUND AT KRAKATOA IN 1883...
...AND ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THE ONE IN PERIVALE—THE GABRIEL CHASE AFFAIR.
IT'S HIM. FINALLY.

BUT WHERE IS HE? WHERE IS THAT BLUE BOX HE TRAVELS IN?
AND WHY IS HE HERE?
IN THE PAST THERE HAVE USUALLY BEEN TWO DISTINCT ENERGY SIGNATURES—HIS ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE.
THIS SHOWS ONLY ONE... HE'S STILL HERE.

SEE HERE? THE BLUE BOX WAS DRAGGED ONTO SOMETHING. PROBABLY A HORSE AND CART.
YOU KNOW, I DON'T THINK IT'S WORKING ANYMORE.

HE'S TRAPPED HERE.
THEN LET'S GO HUNTING.
FOR THE GLORY OF THE EMPIRE.

POLICE PUBLIC CALL BOX
THE RIFT IS LIKE AN ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET FOR MACHINES LIKE THE TARDIS. AND IF I CAN GET IT THERE, I'LL BE ABLE TO FILL UP AND LEAVE.
SO WE'LL JUST PUT THE THING BACK ON THE CART AND TAKE IT THERE!
FREE PUBLIC
I'M SORRY?
THE CALIBRATOR IN YOUR HAND. IT'S DRENCHED IN CHRONAL ENERGY, YOU SEE.
IT'LL SEND THEIR DETECTORS DOO-LALLY. AND IF YOU'RE COVERED IN IT, IT'LL AIM THEM AT YOU.
YEAH, THE PROBLEM IS THAT THEY'LL BE LOOKING FOR ME, AND BY DEFAULT THE TARDIS. AND IT DOES, WELL, STAND OUT A LITTLE.
NO, THE PETROL CAN IDEA COULD WORK, I HAVE MOST OF THE PARTS I NEED TO CREATE ONE. IT WON'T HOLD THAT MUCH POWER—
—DON'T TOUCH THAT.
I'LL NEED SOME COPPER TUBING, SOME STEEL WIRE, AND A PARAFFIN LAMP.
EVERYTHING ELSE I CAN COBBLE TOGETHER FROM THE CONSOLE. WHO WANTS TO GO JUNKYARD HUNTING?
BUT YOU CAN'T GO OUT INTO LONDON LIKE THAT! YOU'LL STAND OUT MORE THAN YOUR TARDIS!
I KNOW JUST THE THING TO WEAR. WAIT HERE.

IT'S BELIEVED THAT THE GELTH CREATED THE RIFT, YOU SEE. BUT WHY THEY PICKED CARDIFF...
...I SUPPOSE IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE. THEY COULD HAVE PICKED BLACKPOOL. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO BLACKPOOL?
SO, HERBERT, HOW DID YOU MEET YOUNG SMITH HERE?
OH, WE'RE MEMBERS OF THE SAME GENTLEMEN'S CLUB. WE MET A COUPLE OF MONTHS BACK. JOHN HERE HAS BEEN A FELLOW OF CAMBRIDGE FOR SEVERAL YEARS.
HE ONLY MOVED BACK TO LONDON RECENTLY.
CAMBRIDGE! AS A SCIENTIST YOU MUST KNOW PROFESSOR CHRONOTIS, THEN? OLD BLOKE, BIT OF A GAMMY LEG, SMELLS OF GARLIC?
NO, I DON'T THINK I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE OF—
DOCTOR! WAIT!
THERE'S SOMEONE THERE!
Evening Star
MISSIN
GIRL
MYST
8th
THAT'S THEM ALL RIGHT. THE INSTITUTE.
LET'S GO THE OTHER WAY—SEE IF WE CAN'T FIND A BETTER ROUTE AROUND THIS BUILDING.

COME ON—I KNOW A JUNKYARD AROUND HERE.
OR, AT LEAST THERE WILL BE ONE IN A FEW DECADES.
CLATTER
THE POWER READINGS JUST WENT OFF THE SCALE!
SKREEEEEEEE
THERE!
STOP RIGHT THERE IN THE NAME OF THE EMPIRE!
DOCTOR! WE KNOW IT'S YOU!
STAND DOWN IN THE NAME OF THE QUEEN!

HERBERT! DOCTOR! THEY'RE COMING!
THEY MUST HAVE DETECTED YOUR CHRONAL WHATEVERS!
WHO ARE COMING?
THE TORCHWOOD INSTITUTE!
STOP RIGHT THERE, DOCTOR!
RUN!
THIS IS YOUR LAST WARNING!
QUICK! THIS WAY!
YOU GO FIRST, JOHN! I'M NOT AS FIT AS I USED TO—

WELLS!
ARRGHHHH!
FZZZAPPP

COME ON! WE NEED TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE!
WAIT! HERBERT COULD BE HURT.

TRUE, BUT HE'S NOT YOU. HE'S NOT WHO THEY'RE AFTER.
WHEN THEY REALISE THIS THEY'LL JUST LET HIM GO! THEY WON'T DO THAT TO YOU IF YOU GO BACK!

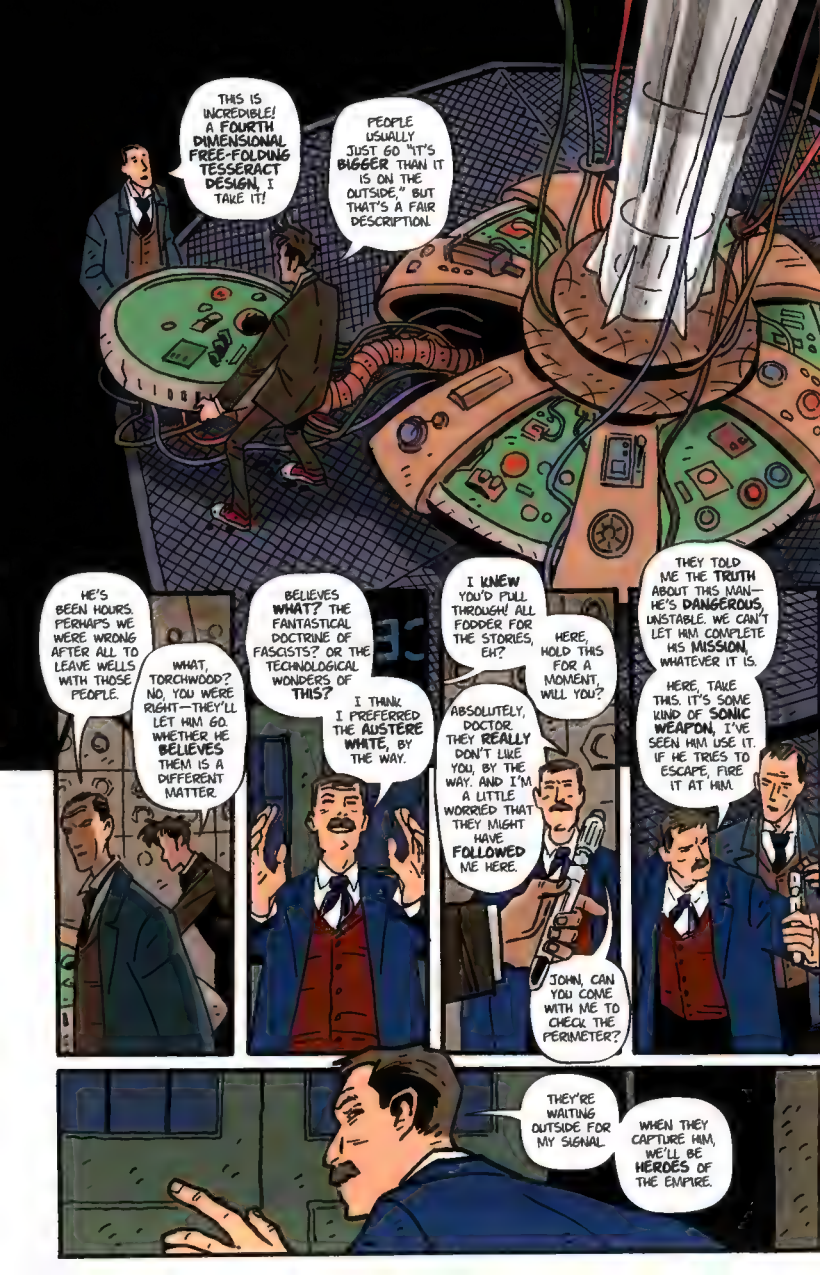
HE'S NOT THE DOCTOR.
TRUE, BUT HE WAS WITH THE DOCTOR.
LET'S TAKE HIM BACK TO THE WEST INDIA DOCKS...
...WE CAN INTERROGATE HIM AT LEISURE THERE.

WH-WHERE AM I?
HELLO? WHO'S THERE?
HERBERT GEORGE WELLS. TEACHER. AMATEUR NOVELIST.
WE'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE MAN YOU WORK WITH.
WE'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT THE DOCTOR.
THE DOCTOR? I DON'T WORK WITH HIM! HE'S, WELL, AN ACQUAINTANCE, I SUPPOSE, BUT NOTHING MORE!
I'M SIMPLY HELPING HIM TRAVEL TO CARDIFF! WHO ARE YOU?
WE ARE THE TORCHWOOD INSTITUTE— CREATED BY HER ROYAL HIGHNESS QUEEN VICTORIA.
WE HAVE WORKED IN THE SHADOWS FOR ALMOST A DECADE NOW, STOPPING PEOPLE LIKE THE DOCTOR AND OTHER SUCH— PHANTASMAGORIA.
HOW DO YOU KNOW THE DOCTOR?
IT-IT WAS ABOUT FOUR, FIVE YEARS AGO. I WAS ON HOLIDAY IN SCOTLAND.
"THE DOCTOR AND A YOUNG ASSISTANT APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE. AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS ON A PLANET CALLED KARFEL.
'WE FOUGHT MORLOX AND THE BORAD. AND WHEN WE WON, I WAS BROUGHT HOME. I DIDN'T SEE HIM AGAIN UNTIL RECENTLY.'

THE ASSISTANT—WAS SHE FEMALE, YOUNG, PRETTY... AND **INDECENTLY DRESSED?**
AND THE DOCTOR—WAS HE DRESSED **STRANGELY** FOR THE ERA?
WHY YES! HOW DID YOU **KNOW** THIS?
TEN YEARS AGO QUEEN VICTORIA WAS SAVED FROM A **WEREWOLF** WHILE IN SCOTLAND BY A MAN CALLED **THE DOCTOR**.
SHE KNIGHTED HIM, BUT THEN **BANISHED** HIM FROM HER EMPIRE.
TORCHWOOD HOUSE WAS GIVEN OVER TO A NEW INSTITUTE DEVELOPED TO **STOP** THESE FANTASTICAL TERRORS. WE HAVE HUBS IN GLASGOW, CARDIFF, AND HERE—IN THE WEST INDIA DOCKS—AMONG OTHERS.

WE HAVE HUNTED THIS DOCTOR AROUND THE **WORLD**. FROM PLACES LIKE AMERICA AND KRAKATOA, TO PERIVALE IN ENGLAND.
AND EVERY TIME WE **MISS** HIM. HIS DESCRIPTION IS EVERYWHERE, AND YET HE SLIPS THROUGH OUR FINGERS LIKE QUICKSILVER.
WELL, THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE HIS APPEARANCE HAS **CHANGED!** HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE DID WHEN I FIRST MET HIM!
WHAT? **TRANSMOGRIFICATION?** WE NEVER CONSIDERED THAT.
WHO KNOWS **WHAT** THIS ALIEN CAN DO IF HE'S A SHAPE-CHANGER...

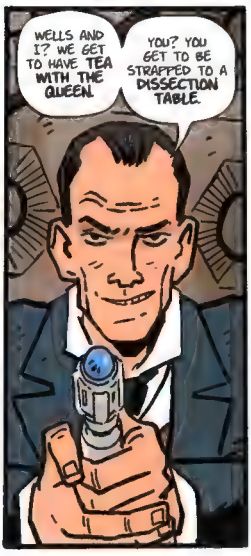
WE NEED MORE **RESOURCES!** HE COULD BE ANYONE, ANYWHERE! THE EMPIRE IS IN TERRIBLE PERIL!
PEOPLE, PLEASE, CAN I INTERRUPT FOR A MOMENT?
I KNEW HE WAS A TIME TRAVELLER, **PERHAPS** AN ALIEN, BUT A **THREAT** TO THE EMPIRE?
SET ME FREE AND PROVIDE ME WITH THE MANPOWER...
...AND I WILL **DELIVER** YOU THE DOCTOR.
RIGHT NOW.


THIS IS INCREDIBLE! A FOURTH DIMENSIONAL FREE-FOLDING TESSERACT DESIGN, I TAKE IT!
PEOPLE USUALLY JUST GO "IT'S BIGGER THAN IT IS ON THE OUTSIDE," BUT THAT'S A FAIR DESCRIPTION.
HE'S BEEN HOURS. PERHAPS WE WERE WRONG AFTER ALL TO LEAVE WELLS WITH THOSE PEOPLE.
WHAT, TORCHWOOD? NO, YOU WERE RIGHT—THEY'LL LET HIM GO. WHETHER HE BELIEVES THEM IS A DIFFERENT MATTER.
BELIEVES WHAT? THE FANTASTICAL DOCTRINE OF FASCISTS? OR THE TECHNOLOGICAL WONDERS OF THIS?
I THINK. I PREFERRED THE AUSTERE WHITE, BY THE WAY.
I KNEW YOU'D PULL THROUGH! ALL FODDER FOR THE STORIES, EH?
HERE, HOLD THIS FOR A MOMENT, WILL YOU?
ABSOLUTELY, DOCTOR. THEY REALLY DON'T LIKE YOU, BY THE WAY. AND I'M A LITTLE WORRIED THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE FOLLOWED ME HERE.
JOHN, CAN YOU COME WITH ME TO CHECK THE PERIMETER?
THEY TOLD ME THE TRUTH ABOUT THIS MAN—HE'S DANGEROUS, UNSTABLE. WE CAN'T LET HIM COMPLETE HIS MISSION, WHATEVER IT IS.
HERE, TAKE THIS. IT'S SOME KIND OF SONIC WEAPON, I'VE SEEN HIM USE IT. IF HE TRIES TO ESCAPE, FIRE IT AT HIM.
THEY'RE WAITING OUTSIDE FOR MY SIGNAL.
WHEN THEY CAPTURE HIM, WE'LL BE HEROES OF THE EMPIRE.

WELLS, BE A GOOD CHAP AND PASS ME BACK THE—
—OH.

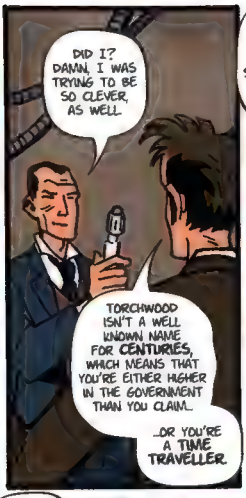
WE KNOW YOUR PLANS, DOCTOR. WELLS HAS GONE TO CALL THE INSTITUTE.
IN A MATTER OF MOMENTS, THEY'LL BE SWARMING THE TARDIS, AND YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP THEM.

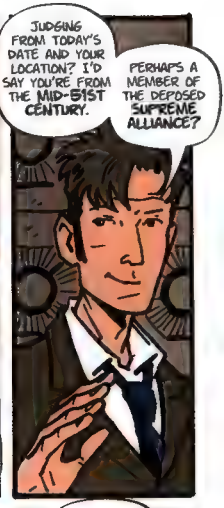
WE'LL BE HEROES OF THE EMPIRE! THE ENEMY OF THE CROWN CAPTURED BY US! THEY'LL WRITE BOOKS ON US!
WELLS MIGHT HAVE LED THEM HERE, BUT IT WAS I THAT ALERTED THEM —WITH THAT ITEM OF CHRONAL ENERGY YOU TOLD ME TO PUT DOWN!
SO WHAT NOW?


WELLS AND I? WE GET TO HAVE TEA WITH THE QUEEN.
YOU? YOU GET TO BE STRAPPED TO A DISSECTION TABLE.

WELLS! IS THIS THE PLACE?!
IT IS. MY ACCOMPLICE IS PUTTING THE FINAL TOUCHES TO THE DOCTOR'S CAPTURE.
YOU WON'T EVEN HAVE TO BREAK THE DOORS TO HIS TIME MACHINE DOWN!
YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, WELLS. THE EMPIRE COULD USE MORE PEOPLE LIKE YOU.
IF YOU EVER FEEL LIKE JOINING US—
THANK YOU, BUT I THINK THAT I'LL BE KEEPING THE FANTASTICAL WHERE IT BELONGS IN THE FUTURE—IN BOOKS.
QUICKLY! BEFORE HE SUSPECTS!
DOCTOR! COME OUT OF YOUR BLUE BOX!
WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
POLICE BOX
POLICE BOX

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE INSISTENT.
SHALL WE GO? YOU DON'T WANT TO KEEP TORCHWOOD WAITING.
IT WAS TORCHWOOD THAT GAVE YOU AWAY, YOU KNOW.
I ONLY EVER CALLED THEM THE INSTITUTE. YET YOU KNEW THEIR REAL NAME IN THE ALLEY.


DID I? DAMN, I WAS TRYING TO BE SO CLEVER, AS WELL.
TORCHWOOD ISN'T A WELL KNOWN NAME FOR CENTURIES, WHICH MEANS THAT YOU'RE EITHER HIGHER IN THE GOVERNMENT THAN YOU CLAIM...
...OR YOU'RE A TIME TRAVELLER.


JUDGING FROM TODAY'S DATE AND YOUR LOCATION? I'D SAY YOU'RE FROM THE MID-51ST CENTURY.
PERHAPS A MEMBER OF THE DEPOSED SUPREME ALLIANCE?

I SHOULD KILL YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID TO THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE! IT TOOK ME YEARS TO PERFECT THE ZYGMA BEAM TECHNOLOGY TO REPAIR MAGNUS GREEL...
...ONLY TO FIND THAT YOU KILLED HIM, DOCTOR!
WELL, I THINK YOU'LL FIND THAT CELLULAR DEGENERATION KILLED MAGNUS GREEL...
...AND TECHNICALLY THAT HASN'T HAPPENED YET.

EXACTLY. I'M HERE TO STOP YOU FROM KILLING HIM.
BUT BEFORE THAT I HAVE TO STOP YOU FROM STOPPING ME. AND LUCKILY I HAD AN ACE UP MY SLEEVE.
THE SECRET DIARY OF H.G. WELLS. THE FULL REPORT ABOUT THE CAPTURE OF "THE DOCTOR," HIS IMPRISONMENT... AND DEATH.
FOUND LAST YEAR ON THE LIBRARY PLANET OF BIBLIOS. WITH THIS I KNEW THE DETAILS OF WHERE TO FIND YOU, AND STOP YOU.

SO YOU MADE FRIENDS WITH HERBERT JUST SO THAT YOU COULD BE HERE TODAY?
MORE THAN THAT! BY SAVING GREEL, I CAN CURE HIM OF THE ZYGMA RADIATION! WE CAN RETURN TO OUR TIME!
I WONDER— WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU WHEN I KILL YOUR PREVIOUS SELF, DOCTOR?
WE CAN RETURN AND DEFEAT THE FILIPINO ARMY! THE BUTCHER OF BRISBANE CAN RULE AGAIN!
AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME! IT'S WRITTEN HERE IN WELLS'S NOTES! THEY WERE KEPT IN TOP-SECRET STORAGE FOR CENTURIES!
YEAH, YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING THAT YOU READ, YOU KNOW.
I VISITED THE LIBRARY AT BIBLOS RECENTLY, TOO. AND I SAW WELLS'S NOTES WHEN I WAS THERE. THAT'S ONLY A FACSIMILE IN YOUR HAND...
...THIS IS THE REAL ONE. WRITTEN EARLIER TODAY BY WELLS.
I DICTATED IT, THOUGH, AND I'LL BE PASSING IT TO A TORCHWOOD EMPLOYEE IN A CENTURY OR SO WHO'LL MAKE SURE IT GETS TO THE RIGHT PLACE.
YOUR HANDS.
OH, THAT DOESN'T WORK BY THE WAY. IT'S ALSO A FACSIMILE.
NO! YOU CAN'T WIN! THE TARDIS IS STILL POWERLESS! I CAN STILL STOP YOU FROM STOPPING ME!
CLICK
CLICK
OH YEAH. THE POWERLESS TARDIS STORY.
I MIGHT HAVE LIED ABOUT THAT, TOO. GOODBYE, MISTER SMITH.
CLICK

HE'S ESCAPING! STOP HIM!
NO! THIS IS ALL PART OF THE PLAN! TRUST ME!
VWOORP
VWOORP
PUBLIC CALL

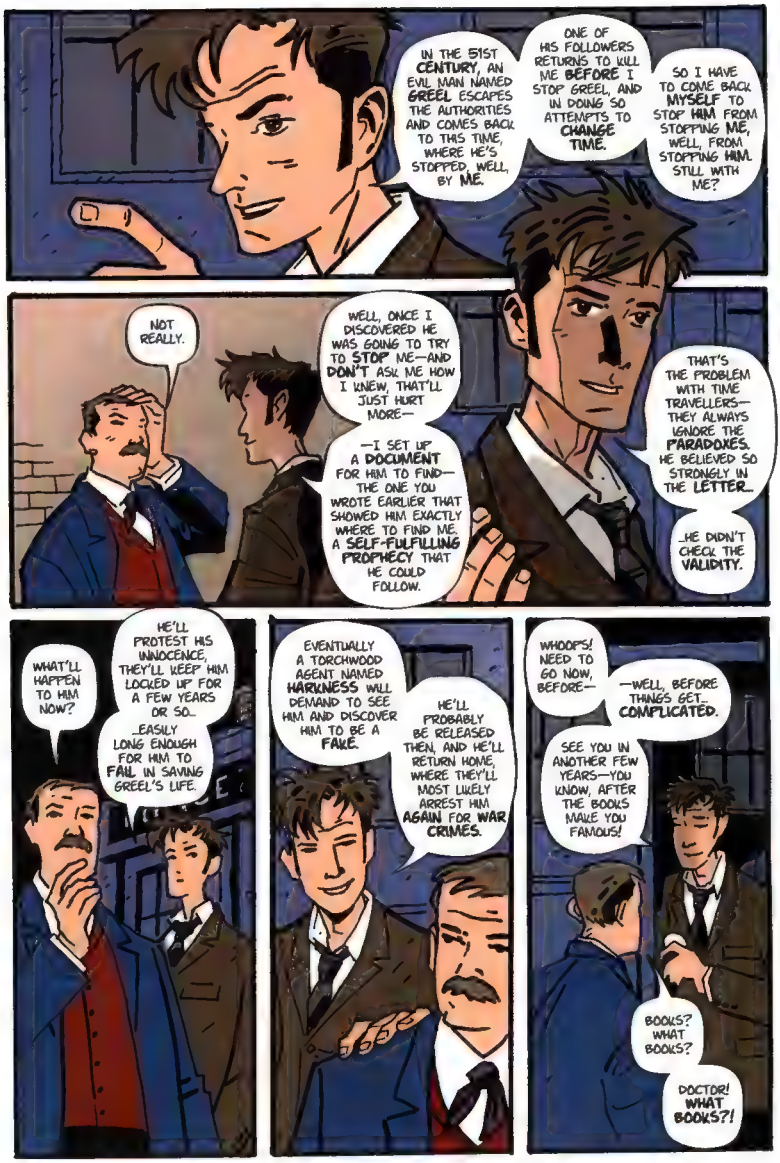
VWOORP
VWOORP
POLICE BOX
THAT'S HIM! THAT'S THE DOCTOR!
HE HAS A WEAPON! INCAPACITATE HIM!
NO! WAIT—

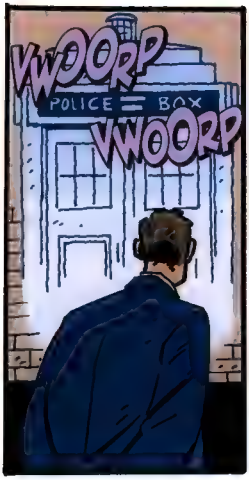
AIIIEEEEE!
FZZZZZTTTTT
REMEMBER WHAT WELLS SAID! GAG HIM SO HE CAN'T HYPNOTISE US WITH HIS VOICE!
THIS FITS THE DESCRIPTIONS WE HAVE FROM SCOTLAND.
IT SEEMS TO BE SOME KIND OF NON-WORKING REPLICA THOUGH!
GOOD WORK, WELLS. YOU'VE DONE THE EMPIRE A SERVICE TODAY...
...ONE WE WON'T FORGET EASILY.
WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH HIM?
EXAMINE HIM, QUESTION HIM...
...AND WHEN WE HAVE OUR ANSWERS, WE'LL SECURE HIM. HE WON'T TROUBLE YOU AGAIN.
MMMMPH! MMMPH!
HE'S A TIME TRAVELLER ALRIGHT. HE'S DRENCHED IN BOTH CHRONAL AND WHAT SEEMS TO BE ZYGMA RADIATION.
TAKE HIM TO THE VAULTS.

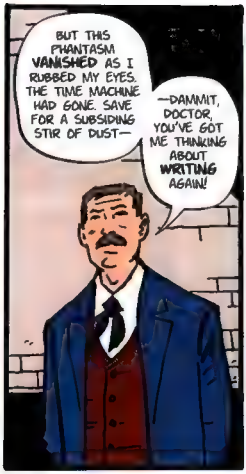
"WILL HE EVER RETURN? IT MAY BE THAT HE SWEPT BACK INTO THE PAST, AND FELL AMONG THE BLOOD-DRINKING HAIRY SAVAGES OF THE AGE OF UNPOLISHED STONE..."

THAT'S BY YOU, AS WELL. YOU REALLY SHOULD TRY THIS WRITING LARK. YOU MIGHT BE QUITE GOOD AT IT, YOU KNOW.

SO, IT'S OVER? WILL YOU FINALLY TELL ME WHAT ALL THIS WAS ABOUT?
IT'S A BIT ALL OVER THE PLACE, TIME-WISE, BUT I'LL TRY.
FREE


IN THE 51ST CENTURY, AN EVIL MAN NAMED GREEL ESCAPES THE AUTHORITIES AND COMES BACK TO THIS TIME, WHERE HE'S STOPPED, WELL, BY ME.
ONE OF HIS FOLLOWERS RETURNS TO KILL ME BEFORE I STOP GREEL, AND IN DOING SO ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE TIME.
SO I HAVE TO COME BACK MYSELF TO STOP HIM FROM STOPPING ME, WELL, FROM STOPPING HIM. STILL WITH ME?
NOT REALLY.
WELL, ONCE I DISCOVERED HE WAS GOING TO TRY TO STOP ME—AND DON'T ASK ME HOW I KNEW, THAT'LL JUST HURT MORE—
—I SET UP A DOCUMENT FOR HIM TO FIND—THE ONE YOU WROTE EARLIER THAT SHOWED HIM EXACTLY WHERE TO FIND ME. A SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY THAT HE COULD FOLLOW.
THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH TIME TRAVELLERS—THEY ALWAYS IGNORE THE PARADOXES. HE BELIEVED SO STRONGLY IN THE LETTER...
...HE DIDN'T CHECK THE VALIDITY.
WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO HIM NOW?
HE'LL PROTEST HIS INNOCENCE, THEY'LL KEEP HIM LOCKED UP FOR A FEW YEARS OR SO...
...EASILY LONG ENOUGH FOR HIM TO FAIL IN SAVING GREEL'S LIFE.
EVENTUALLY A TORCHWOOD AGENT NAMED HARKNESS WILL DEMAND TO SEE HIM AND DISCOVER HIM TO BE A FAKE.
HE'LL PROBABLY BE RELEASED THEN, AND HE'LL RETURN HOME, WHERE THEY'LL MOST LIKELY ARREST HIM AGAIN FOR WAR CRIMES.
WHOOPS! NEED TO GO NOW, BEFORE—
—WELL, BEFORE THINGS GET... COMPLICATED.
SEE YOU IN ANOTHER FEW YEARS—YOU KNOW, AFTER THE BOOKS MAKE YOU FAMOUS!
BOOKS? WHAT BOOKS?
DOCTOR! WHAT BOOKS?!


VWOORP
POLICE BOX
VWOORP


BUT THIS PHANTASM VANISHED AS I RUBBED MY EYES. THE TIME MACHINE HAD GONE. SAVE FOR A SUBSIDING STIR OF DUST—
—DAMMIT, DOCTOR, YOU'VE GOT ME THINKING ABOUT WRITING AGAIN!

VWOORP
VWOORP
WAIT A MOMENT! YOU'VE RETURNED AGAIN?
THAT'S COMING FROM BY THE DOCK!

CALL BOX
THESE CLOTHES ARE RIDICULOUS! WHY MUST I WEAR THEM?
BECAUSE YOU CAN'T GO WALKING ROUND VICTORIAN LONDON IN SKINS. YOU'LL FRIGHTEN THE HORSES.
ANYWAY, WE DON'T WANT TO BE CONSPICUOUS, DO WE?

ANOTHER ONE OF YOU?
HOW MANY OF YOU ARE THERE, DOCTOR?

I'M TRYING TO TEACH YOU, LEELA, SURELY YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW YOUR ANCESTORS ENJOYED THEMSELVES.
SPLENDID. THAT'S WHY I'M TAKING YOU TO THE THEATRE!

LI H'SEN CHIANG. HMM... PITY. I'D RATHER HOPED WE'D CATCH LITTLE TITCH.
NEVERMIND. IF WE HURRY, WE'LL JUST CATCH THE SECOND HOUSE.

DOCTOR, WHEREVER— WHOEVER YOU ARE—
—I'LL DO IT. I'LL WRITE THAT STORY IN YOUR HONOUR!

AMAZING
ARTISTRY
LI H'SEN CHANG
MASTER OF MAGIC
MESMERISM
AND I SHALL CALL IT...
THE TIME MACHINE!
END

2nd printing cover

3rd printing cover

4th printing cover

5th printing cover

The craft that went into these was more about figuring out how to tell the true story, trying to find ways to illustrate (or more precisely, to make artist Tom Morgan illustrate) different aspects of that story. Had I been writing this fictionally I might have put in a supernatural aspect someplace, but I had to resist that temptation and keep it real.

IDW: I think your editor might have objected to that

JM: True.

IDW: At last count Presidential Material: Barack Obama *was in its fifth printing. Have you been surprised by all the media attention (New York Times, Los Angeles Times, CNN, Fox News, etc.) and the overwhelmingly positive reaction the book was met with?*

JM: I've been very pleasantly surprised. At conventions and appearances and in my in-box I've heard from lots of people who were intrigued and moved by Barack Obama's life story, and that's been great. So has picking up some award nominations, which are a validation that the book worked for people I don't know personally. And of course the media attention has been a thrill.

IDW: How much research is involved in a project like this?

JM: It's non-stop. Literally, since I started writing the first book I've been keeping a sort of political diary, noting major happenings in President Obama's life and political career, as well as those outside events that might affect it. For the first book I had to go back into the past, reading his books and lots of newspaper and magazine stories about different aspects of his life. I'm still doing that, but also keeping track day by day so I don't miss anything. You should see my clippings…

Barack Obama illustration from *The Presidents of the United States* by Ben Templesmith

***IDW:** The November election stirred emotions on all sides of the political spectrum. Has it been difficult for you to keep personal opinion in check and remain impartial in portraying President Obama's story?*

JM: It's a challenge, but not an insurmountable one. The point was never to do a partisan story, but to relate the facts as they happened and continue to happen. But facts can be open to interpretation. Was the passage of the stimulus bill a victory, or a disaster? Reasonable people can differ. For President Obama, who wanted it, it's clearly a big win, but I have to be careful to phrase it as a win for him and not for me.

IDW: Thanks, Jeff

IDW

Presidential Material - 1st printing cover. Art by J. Scott Campbell

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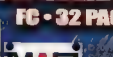

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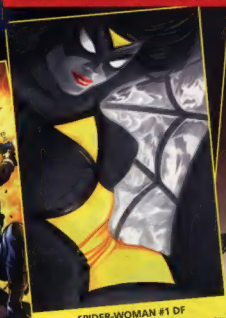

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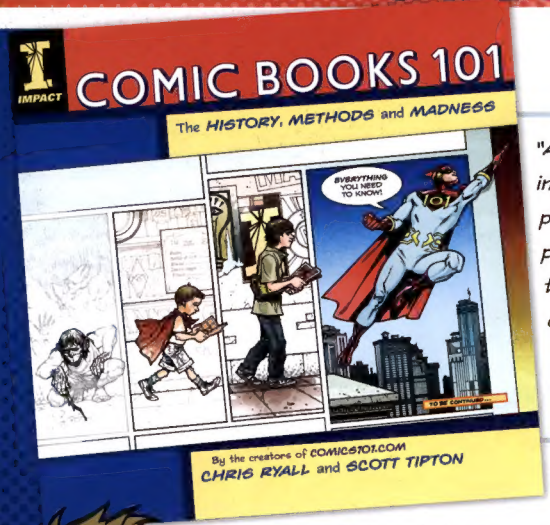

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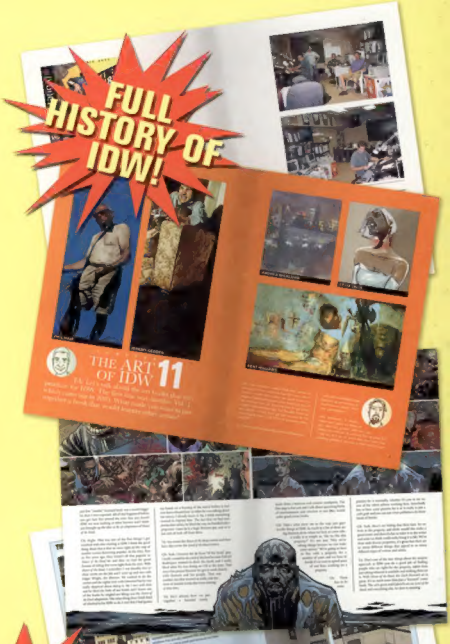

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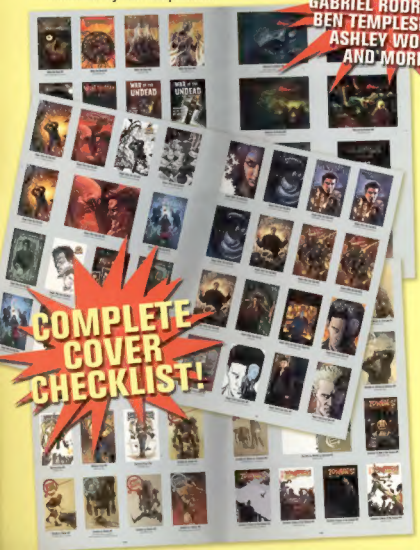

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